

*Wellington N.Y.*

## HISTORY OF U.S.N. BASE HOSPITAL NUMBER FOUR

January 1, 1944 to March 31, 1944

The new year, 1944, began with U.S.N. Base Hospital #4 under the command of Captain John W. Vann (MC) USN and Commander Bernard S. Pukek (MC) USN as the executive officer. The future of the hospital was problematical for with the combat areas moving steadily northward and westward, New Zealand and the Wellington area in particular became increasingly more remote. The remaining marines in this district were transferred to the last man to other activities thus reducing the military population to be served by this activity to a bare minimum, or, actually, the diplomatic and naval personnel stationed in Wellington and the crews of the few American ships calling at this port. As the months passed, the census gradually declined until finally orders came to transfer all marine patients to Auckland and shortly afterwards all naval personnel, excepting staff patients, were similarly transferred. On March 21, 1944 orders were received that U.S.N. Base Hospital #4 would cease to function as a hospital on April 1, 1944.

During this period of three months the admissions and number of sick days were as follows:

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	STAFF	PATIENTS
January	27	201
February	26	40
March	29	13
Total..	82	254

The number of sick days for the first quarter period of 1944 was 32,666, of which 1335 were for staff members. The sick days are given by months as follows:

	STAFF	PATIENTS
January	626	19,363
February	399	9,654
March	310	2,314
Total..	1335	31,331

One death occurred during this time, the cause of which was chronic nephritis and hypertension. The patient was the newly arrived United States Minister to New Zealand, Mr. William G. Burdett.

Rear Admiral Carney visited the hospital for a few days in February.

With the impending closure of this activity, very little new construction is to be reported. Renovations were made in the senior officer's quarters and improved facilities were made available to the chaplains. An officers' club was organized in January and has proved to be a valuable and interesting adjunct to the compound, its success surpassing all expectations.

Ward 14 was speedily renovated, a bar installed, a fireplace built, and the entire room was completely transformed by attractive decorations and furnishings.

During the month of January, the following changes took place in officer personnel:

Reported: Lt. Ralph J. CRISS, MC(V-S) USNR, Lt.C. Edmund T. LENTZ, MC-V(S), USNR, Lt. Frank M. OLIRICH, MC-V(S) USNR, Lt. Vito BARBIERI, MC-V(S) USNR, Lt. Francis LONERGAN, MC-V(G) USNR, Lt. Stanley L. DRENNAN, (MC) USN, Lt.(jg) Hugh M. TAYLOR, (HC) USN, Lt. Arthur S. TURVILLE, (DC) USN, Ens. Wilhemina C. STONE (NC) USNR, Ens. Cordelia F. VORIS, (NC) USNR.  
Detached: Ens. Charlene N. KING (NC) USNR, Lt.(jg) Walter E. SCOTT, SC-V(G) USNR, Comdr. Orris R. MEYERS, MC-V(S) USNR, Lt.C. Lewis W. ANGLE, MC-V(S) USNR, Lt.(jg) Edward D. LILES, (HC) USN, Lt. Earl F. MILLARD, DC-V(S) USNR.

During the month of February, the following changes took place in officer personnel:

Reported: Lt.C. Edward D. ANDERSON, MC-V(S) USNR, Lt.C. Edward P. CATHCART, MC-V(S) USNR, Lt. Charles C. DERRICK, MC-V(G) USNR, Lt. John L. BEYT, DC-V(G) USNR, Chief Pharm. Daniel M. BROWN, HC-V(G), USNR, Lt. Sherwood R. SCHWARTZ, DC-V(S) USNR, Chief Mach. John (n) WAGECK, (T) USN, Ret., Pharm. Joseph M. CLARY, HC-V(G) USNR.

Detached: Lt.C. Frank A. ELLIS, MC-V(S) USNR, Lt. Frank M. OLIRICH, MC-V(S) USNR, Lt.(jg) Catherine A. LASHLEY, (NC) USNR, Ens. Anna M. SPIEKERMAN (NC) USNR, Ens. El Dula WIXOM, (NC) USNR, Lt. Jesse L. CHISLER, DC-V(S) USNR, Lt. Paul G. FRYOR, DC-V(S) USNR, Pharm. Brownell I. BRECHEISEN, USN, Lt.(jg) George C. CURTIS, (HC) USN, Pharm. Anon R. DUNHAM, USN, Lt. James R. DELANEY MC-V(S) USNR, Lt. Roscoe S. YEGERLEHNER MC-V(S) USNR.

During the month of March, the following changes took place in officer personnel:

Reported: Lt. Laurence O. JANSSEN, D-V(S) USNR, Lt. Milo Michael TENNESSEN, ChC-V(S), USNR.

Detached: Lt. Edward A. MC DEVITT, D-V(S) USNR, Lt. Hugh T. MC MANUS, ChC-V(S) USNR.

Promotion of officers of the staff took place at intervals, with the following being increased in rank:

1-1-44	Edward A. MC DEVITT	Lt.D-V(S) USNR
1-10-44	Patricia J. SCHUMACHER	Lt.(jg)(NC) USNR
1-15-44	John (n)WAGECK	Chief Mach.(T) USN, Ret.
1-17-44	Bernard S. PUPEK	Captain (MC) USN
2-1-44	Mary A. VAUGHN	Lt.(jg) (NC) USNR
2-11-44	Edward P. CATHCART	Comdr. MC-V(S) USNR
2-11-44	Edmund T. LENTZ	Comdr. MC-V(S) USNR
2-11-44	Edward D. ANDERSON	Comdr. MC-V(S) USNR
3-1-44	Hugh T. MC MANUS	Lt. ChC-V(S) USNR.

The closing of U.S.N. Base Hospital #4 was a logical procedure and depended on the circumstances of an offensive war progressing favourably. Happily, those circumstances were that remote facilities for caring for sick and wounded were not required, and that the combat zone had moved far from these shores towards its ultimate goal. The original plans did not indicate that this hospital was destined for this location. The demands were such, however, that plans were changed and hospital and personnel went to work almost immediately upon arrival, met the then existant emergency, and continued on doing work that had not been anticipated. The demands have changed again; the job has been completed and it is fitting that this activity should now close. How well the job was done is best demonstrated by comparing admission, sick days, and the mortality rate, but better is the thought of the almost endless line of wounded, sick, and emaciated young men returned to duty or transferred to other areas as their condition indicated. The crew and officers of Base Hospital #4 have every right to feel proud of their part in fulfilling, in this picturesque little valley, the task that was assigned them.

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9. Crew's Laundry and Drying Room (350 sq.ft.) completed on September 22, 1943.
10. Head between Wards #10 & 11 (500 sq.ft.) completed on October 6, 1943.
11. Nurses' Quarters (7,400 sq.ft.) completed on October 9, 1943.
12. Sun Porch enclosure to north side of theatre building completed on October 22, 1943.
13. Tank 250,000 gal. capacity to increase water storage completed on October 29, 1943.
14. 2 pumps installed to replace old ones which were inadequate for increased demands of water supply completed on October 27, 1943.
  1. electric driven 40 H.P. pump (400 gallons per min.)
  1. Ford trailer pump 95 H.P. pump (400 gallons per min.) Auxiliary stand by.
15. Head showers and toilets for 4 metal buildings (700 sq.ft.) completed on November 6, 1943.
16. Physio-Therapy building (800 sq.ft.) completed on November 13, 1943.
17. Sun Porch addition to S.O.Q. (300 sq.ft.) completed on November 14, 1943.
18. Sewerage disposal plant to replace present septic tanks which are inadequate for increased demands of hospital completed 60% November 16, 1943.
19. Additional 6" water main installed from pump house, independent of hospital for pumping to 370,000 gallon storage tanks with combination three cross connection and valve controls which can be used in an emergency or in case of a rupture in existing 6" main to supply the hospital.

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Every nook and corner on this compound was utilized with the primary object of adequately taking care of all of the patients sent here, and secondarily in making them as comfortable as possible. This entailed constructing lavatory and shower facilities between wards as was the example between wards #10 and #11 and between the steel buildings. To permit increasing service, a new eye, ear, nose and throat clinic and a physio-therapy department were added to the original buildings. The spacious verandas on the sick officers' quarters and on the north side of the theatre were glassed in, providing protection from the winds and giving opportunity for the patients to avail themselves of whatever sunshine the season might boast. The building devoted to the American Red Cross consisted of offices and a large lounge with a fireplace, which was well patronized by patients and crew alike from the first day it opened. The new home for the nurses, probably one of the finest and best furnished buildings in this country and in a superb location, was completed in October and occupied shortly afterwards. The old nurses' home was promptly converted into a ward and with its numerous rooms with basins and running water is potentially an ideal contagious ward should occasion ever demand.

With the greatly increased space devoted to service it was to be expected that the original utilities would be overtaxed. Such a condition was anticipated and plans were made to meet the requirements. The size of the boiler room was increased and a new additional boiler was installed. Two new water pumps were obtained, one electric and one gasoline, and a new tank of 250,000 gallon capacity was erected beside the others on the top of the hill at the south side of the compound. An auxiliary water main was run from the pump house to the storage tanks which would serve well in case of fire or any break in the single main. A new transformer was put into operation which increased the kilowatt capacity from 100 to 250. The septic tanks, always a source of worry and odor, were found to be inadequate to care for the large population of the hospital so that an elaborate sewage disposal plant was planned and is now 60% completed. The galley which has been called upon to serve many times the number of meals for which it was originally designed was completely remodeled, a bake shop and store rooms added, so that what was an ungainly affair is now an exceptionally efficient unit.

Finally, a chapel was constructed in a prominent location on the compound beside the main entrance to the mess hall. The interior was furnished with rows of seats and kneeler, richly carpeted, and with attractive lamp shades made in the occupational therapy department. A beautiful altar, always decorated with flowers, and a lectern were built in our own carpenter shop. A novel addition was the work of the boys in transforming by means of colored paper and paint the plain glass windows into realistic semblances of stained glass. An organ was placed in the rear of the room and appropriate music can be provided for each of the four Sunday services conducted by our chaplains, protestant and catholic. The warmth and spirit of this delightful little chapel is projected on each and everyone who enters it, including the daily visitors and those from off the compound.

Good black bitumen roads extend throughout the hospital compound and have replaced the former quagmires of mud and rivulets. The areas around the buildings are beautifully terraced, liberal numbers of colorful flower beds have been made, and many bushes have been planted. Anyone familiar with New Zealand knows how well flowers and grass will grow and ours have done famously. The parade with its expanse of lawn and colors flying from the staff is an inspiration to all who may see it from several miles away.

In this exquisite valley setting with the nearby snow capped mountains, it is always a pleasure to show visitors around our beautiful compound and to demonstrate its work. Many distinguished guests both from military and civil life have come to view Base Hospital #4. Routine inspections of the hospital were made by the following officers, most of whom came in their customary tour of duty.

Rear Admiral John T. Shofroth, Jr. USN  
Rear Admiral William Chambers (MC) USN  
Captain A. H. Dearing (MC) USN  
Major General Julian Smith USMC  
Captain R. W. Truett (CH C) USN  
Captain T. B. Ellis (MC) USN  
Rear Admiral T. S. Wilkinson USN  
Major General C. B. Vogel USMC  
Vice Admiral W. L. Calhoun, USN  
Brig. General Hillman (MC) USA  
Lt. General Sir Bernard Freyburg, NZA  
Admiral C. H. Cobb USN  
Brig. General E. H. Leavey USA  
Lt. General A. A. Vandegrift USMC  
Brig. General L. D. Hermit USMC  
Commander Gene Tunney USNR

Visitors to the hospital who hold positions of prominence in civilian life included Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Prime Minister and Mrs. Peter Fraser, and Mrs. Walter Nash. Popular in the entertainment world are Joe E. Brown and Arty Shaw, who came to us with their musicians to play and to amuse the patients and the staff.

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From March 17, 1943, the date of commissioning USN Base Hospital #4 to 1 May 1943 the following changes in officer personnel took place.  
Reported: Lt. C. Chester L. Hults, ChC-V(G)USNR, Lt. Glen S. ECKARD, CHC V(S) USNR, Lt. Cdr. Ross A. GOODCELL, MC-V(S) USNR, Lt. Ozias B. COOK CHC USN, Lt. (jg) Jackson F. MCKINNEY (DC) USN, Lt. Howard L. CORREL MC V(S) USNR, Lt. C. James C.T. ROGERS MC V(S) USNR, Lt. C. Marvin L. BILLS MC V(S) USNR, Lt. C. Paul E. McMaster MC V(S) USNR, Lt. C. Gurn T. STOUT MC V(S) USNR, Lt. C. Meredith L. OSTRUM MC V(S) USNR, Cdr. Dar D. STOFER MC V(S) USNR, Lt. C. Javes H. PENNINGTON MC V(S) USNR, Lt. Morton CUTLER MC V(S) USNR, Lt. Daniel P. McMAHON MC V(S) USNR, Lt. Paul G. PRYOR DC V(G) USNR, Lt. Francis E. MILLARD DC V(S) USNR, Lt. (jg) Jesse L. CHISLER DC V(G) USNR, Lt. C. Karl A. REED MC V(S) USNR, Lt. C. Ralph E. SCOVEL MC V(S) USNR, and Lt. C. Theodore C. PRATT MC V(S) USNR.  
Detached: Pharm. Victor E. GIBBS and Pharm. Willard H. WINLAND USN

During the month of May 1943 the following changes in officer personnel took place.

Reported: Lt. (jg) Ivyl C. FOWLER MC V(G) USNR, Cdr. Bernard S. PUPEK MC USN, Lt. C. Adolphus A. BERGER MC V(S) USNR, Lt. C. David I. ARBUSE MC V(S) USNR, Cdr. Arthur A. KNAPP MC V(S) USNR, Lt. C. Edmund J. MAHON MC V(S) USNR, Lt. Alfred R. CUKERBAUM MC V(S) USNR, Lt. C. Myron I. INGRAM MC V(S) USNR, Lt. Jacob J. Baratz MC V(S) USNR, Lt. C. Raymond B. DRYER MC V(S) USNR, Pharm. Crowell C. DACUS HC V(G) USNR, Ens. Charles H. SHIFFLETTE HC USN, Detached: Cdr. Dar D. Stofer MC V(S) USNR and Lt. C. Marvin L. BILLS MC V(S) USNR.

During the month of June 1943 the following changes in officer personnel took place.

Reported: Lt. Douglas VERNON ChC V(S) USNR, Lt. (jg) Hugh T. McMANUS ChC V(S) USNR, Lt.C. James E. STROH MC V(S) USNR, Lt.C. Fred J. STUCKER MC V(S) USNR, Lt.(jg) Maurice W. VENNO ChC V(S) USNR and Pharm. Hugh D. SMITH USN.

Detached: Lt. Ozias B. COOK ChC USN, Lt.(jg) Jessie M. R. ENLOE HC USN, Lt.C. Chester L. HULTS ChC V(G) USNR, Lt.(jg) Charles H. SHIFFLETTE HC USN, and Lt. Douglas VERNON ChC (V-S) USNR.

During the month of July 1943 the following changes in officer personnel took place:

Reported: Ens. Theda A. McKIM NC USNR, Ens. Aileen J. MAGUIRE, NC USNR, Ens. Barbara L. NORRIS, NC USNR, Lt. Thomas W. REUL MC V(G) USNR.

Detached: Lt. Paul R. O'DONNELL CEC V(S) USNR, Pharm. Eugene E. ENGSTROM USN, Lt. Earl M ANDERSON MC V(G) USNR, Lt.C. John T. B. CARMODY MC V(S) USNR, Lt. Charles G. MERCKEL, Jr. MC V(G) USNR, Lt. Maruice W. VENNO, ChC V(S) USNR, Pharm. James C. DAM, Jr. USN, Lt.(jg) Alice H. DOMINIQUE, NC USN, Lt. (jg) Ruth B. COLLMEYER NC USN, Ens. Undine B. CLEAVELAND NC USN, Ens. Martha A. COMFORT NC USNR, Lt.C. Tracy D. CUTTLE MC (V-G) USNR, and Lt. John N. MARQUIS MC V(S) USNR.

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During the month of August the following changes in officer personnel took place.

Reported: Lt. Leland R. RHINE MC V(S) USNR, Ens. Anna M. SPIEKERMAN NC USNR, Ens. Ila M. PEDERSON NC USNR, Ens. Mary A. VAUGHN MC USNR, Lt.(jg) Thora L. WELLMAN NC USNR, Lt.C. Mark S. CURTIS MC USN, Ens. William C. McQUEEN HC USN and Lt.(jg) Mary A. HARRINGTON NC USNR.

Detached: Ens. Jeanette E. McKENNA NC USNR, Ens. Mary A. P. Mac INTOSH NC USN, Comdr. Howard B. SPRAGUE MC V(S) USNR, Lt.C. Ralph E. SCOVEL MC V(S) USNR, Lt.C. Paul E. MC MASTER MC V(S) USNR, Lt. Daniel P. MC MAHON MC V(S) USNR.

During the month of September 1943 the following changes in officer personnel took place.

Reported: Lt.C. Frank A. ELLIS MC V(S) USNR, Lt. Howard B. WITTER, MC V(S) USNR, Lt. Stanley A. MYERS, MC V(S) USNR, Lt. James R. DELANEY MC V(S) USNR, Ens. Ida M. CULHANE NC USNR, Ens. Frances C. ENGSTROM NC USN, Ens. Clara M. GENGLER NC USN, Ens. Rebecca F. GRIMES NC USNR, Ens. Vera E. HANDLEY NC USNR, Ens. Alice M. LATTER NC USN, Ens. Georgia A. NORTON, NC USN, Ens. Rose E. REED NC USN, Ens. Patricia J. SCHUMACHER NC USNR, and Ens. Thelma A. ZOOK NC USNR.

Detached: Lt.(jg) Jackson F. MC KINNEY DC USN, Lt.C. Gerald O. HEDLUND MC V(S) USNR, Lt.C. Leslie K. MACCLATCHIE, MC(V)S USNR, Lt.C. Meredith L. OSTROM MC V(S) USNR, Lt. Cari J. BERNHARDT DC V(G) USNR, Comdr. Jesse L HENDERSON MC (V-S) USNR, Ens. William C. MC QUEEN HC USN, Pharm. Syntell B. DAVIS USN, Pharm. Harrison W. BRAY USN, Pharm. Crowell C. DACUS HC V(G) USNR, Lt.C. Harrison E. KENNARD MC V(S) USNR, Lt.C. Albert C. OHMAN, MC V(S) USNR, Lt.C. Adolphus A. BERGER MC V(S) USNR, AND Lt.C. Myron I. INGRAM MC V(S) USNR.

During the month of October 1943 the following changes in officer personnel took place.

Reported: Cdr. Orris R. MYERS MC V(S) USNR and Ens. Kenneth E. THAYER H-V(S) USNR.

Detached: Lt. C. James H. PENNINGTON MC V(S) USNR, Lt. C. David I. ARBUSE MC V(S) USNR, Lt. (jg) Erna DISSELKAMP NC USN, Lt. (jg) Ivyl C. FOWLER MC V(G) USNR, Lt. (jg) Hazel B. ALLISON NC USN, Lt. C. Theodore C. PRATT MC V(S) USNR, Lt. Robert M. DUNLAP MC V(G) USNR, Lt. C. James C. T. ROGERS MC V(S) USNR, Lt. C. Gurn T. STOUT MC V(S) USNR, Lt. C. Edmund J. MAHON MC V(S) USNR, Lt. C. Jacob J. BARATZ MC V(S) USNR, Lt. Clifford E. EASLEY MC V(S) USNR, Comdr. Charles I. JOHNSON MC V(S) USNR, Comdr. George ANOPOL MC V(S) USNR, Lt. C. Francis T. HUNTER MC V(S) USNR and Lt. C. Karl A. REED MC V(S) USNR,

Changes in officer personnel during November 1943:

Reported: Lt. Julius ROSENBERG MC V(G) USNR, Lt. (jg) Edward D. MC DEVITT D-V(S) USNR, Lt. (jg) Ida M. ILDSTAD NC USN and Lt. Roscoe S. YEGERLEHNER MC V(S) USNR and Pharm Peter F. BELL H-V(G) USNR, Lt. (jg) Julia Etta SELLERS NC USN, Lt. Greene "A" BOWLING (DC) V(G) USNR.

Detached: Ens. Kenneth E. THAYER H-V(S) USNR, Lt. Cdr. Mark Sears CURTIS (MC) USN.

Changes in officer personnel during December 1943:

Capt. (MC) John Willard VANN USN, Lt. Elliot George SCHNEIDER (MC) V(S) USNR, Lt. (jg) Freeman Hamilton BROWNE MC-V(G) USNR, Pharm. Kenneth Clyde MASON USN, Ens. Edward M. SHAFFER SC-V(G) USNR, Lt. Ray Reginald RUECKERT MC-V(G) USNR, Ens. M. H. SOELBERG (NC) USNR, Ens. Annette L. MORRIS (NC) USNR, (NC) USNR, Ens. Loreta B. SWIFT (NC) USNR, Ens. Bernice C. SIGMUND (NC) USNR, Ens. Edith Mae WILLIAMS (NC) USN, Ens. Eldula Dean WIXOM (NC) USNR,

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Detached: Lt. Cdr. Mark Sears CURTIS (MC) USN, Lt. Morton (n) Cutler (MC)V(S) USNR, Lt. Alfred Robins CUKERBAUM (MC)V(S) USNR, Lt. Cdr. Richard Hardy APPEL (MC)V(S) USNR, Lt. (jg) Rose Jeanette Delfs (NC) USNR, Ens. Dorthea HANSEN (NC) USNR, Ens. (NC) Charlotte K. KYKER USN, Ens. Jean Larue NOLL (NC) USN, Ens. Katherine ZINKUS (NC) USN, Ens. Ann Julia SERFLEK (NC) USN, Lt. Howard Leroy CORRELL (MC)V(S) USNR, Lt. Cdr. Fred Joseph STUCKER (MC)V(S) USNR, Ens. Eula E. COSGROVE (NC) USNR, Capt. Felix Patrick KEANEY MC USN

New command took over upon detachment of Felix P. KEANEY on 12-29-43.

Promotion of officers of the staff took place at intervals with the following being increased in rank:

3-17-43	Hazel B. Allison	Lt. (jg) NC
3-25-43	Alice H. Dominique	Lt. (jg) NC
4-1-43	Faye E. White	Lt. NC
4-1-43	Eugene E. Engstrom	Pharmacist
4-1-43	Syntell B. Davis	Pharmacist
4-1-43	Brownell I. Brecheisen	Pharmacist
4-1-43	Amon R. Dunham	Pharmacist
5-1-43	Tracy D. Cuttle	Lt. Comdr. MC
5-1-43	Paul G. Pryor	Lt. DC
5-1-43	James H. Beard	Lt. (jg) HC
5-1-43	Edward D. Liles	Lt. (jg) HC
5-1-43	John M. Rutter	Lt. (jg) HC
5-1-43	George C. Curtis	Lt. (jg) HC

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5-1-43	Jesse M. R. Enloe	Lt. (jg) HC
5-1-43	Sylvester McGinn	Lt. Comdr. MC
5-1-43	Ida G. Hubbard	Lt. (jg) NC
5-1-43	Charles H. Shifflette	Lt. (jg) NC
5-15-43	Harrison W. Bray	Pharmacist
5-15-43	James C. Dam, Jr.	Pharmacist
6-1-43	Ruth B. Collmeyer	Lt. (jg) NC
10-1-43	Jesse L. Chisler	Lt. DC
10-1-43	Ruth Fox	Lt. (jg) NC
10-1-43	Rosa J. Delfs	Lt. (jg) NC
10-1-43	Catherine A. Lashley	Lt. (jg) NC

The large number of convalescent patients created the problem of providing means for them to occupy their spare time. The American Red Cross assigned workers to the compound and in a very able manner they soon had organized programs for each day. Moving pictures were shown four evenings in the week; a weekly stage show was presented, and on one evening the patients themselves put on an entertainment. In the recreation hall pool tables were in use constantly. At one end of the room was the library which gradually accumulated 4000 books, all catalogued and cared for by a librarian. The extent to which the men used the library is best illustrated by the fact that in the month of September 5600 books were loaned out or an average of 1400 weekly. Card tables and writing desks were always available in the large comfortable Red Cross lunge with its cheerful fireplace at one end.

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 An occupational therapy department started in a small way but has grown to a considerable size with an ever increasing scope in the work done and interest shown. Facilities were provided for making leather and metal novelties, painting, pottery, sculpturing, and Maori carving. The popularity of this department is indicated by the number of men participating. In one week 456 ambulatory and 212 bed patients were given instruction in some phase of the work.

It was thought and proved to be advantageous for the patients advanced in their convalescence and for the crew as well, to have periods of leave. The men would go either in pairs or in large groups in charge of an officer to the homes of people throughout the country. The arrangements were made for transportation and billeting by the Hospitality Bureau of the American Red Cross, assisted by the New Zealand Red Cross sub-centers and Federated Women's Institutes. In this way, 1478 patients and 387 officers and crew, or a total of 1865 men visited and stayed in private homes in 114 communities. The good will and understanding engendered by such personal contact and interchange of ideas is immeasurable. Many of the homes were in the country on large sheep stations and the appearance of the boys on returning to the hospital attested well as to the merit of organized leaves.

With the coming of Chaplain Cook and later Lieut. McDevitt, a regular recreation officer, entertainment for the crew was planned and organized. Instruments were purchased and a ship's company orchestra called the Blue Jackets was formed. Weekly smokers, an occasional dance, and several barbecues proved to be very successful and popular among the crew. A bus

was purchased and regular trips convenient for liberty parties were made to Wellington. Athletic activities included golf, tennis, bicycling, horse back riding, and trout fishing. A baseball diamond was built in a nearby field whereupon soft baseball leagues were made up. With so many possibilities for recreation it was not surprising to find so many of the crew engaged in some form of exercise or hobby.

At general quarters on Dec 29, 1943, the orders of Captain F. P. KEANY were read whereby he was detached from duty at this hospital. Captain J. W. VANN read his orders directing him to relieve Captain Keany and assume command of the hospital. After a short farewell address and message of appreciation to the officers and crew, Captain Keany left the compound.